

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 6-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 2-5 have been canceled by this amendment.

Applicants note that a minor editorial change has been made to the specification. No new matter has been added.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereafter "AAPA") as shown in Figs. 10 and 11 of the present application.

Claim 1, as amended, recites the feature of a counter means for incrementing a count value by one count if the N sequential fields are determined to have been either 2-2 or 2-3 pulldown-converted, for resetting the count value if the N sequential fields are determined to have been neither 2-2 nor 2-3 pulldown-converted, and for maintaining the count value if otherwise. Applicants respectfully submit that the AAPA does not disclose or suggest at least this feature of claim 1.

Regarding the AAPA, Applicants note that Fig. 11 depicts a field interpolation method determination section 108 which includes a first register 85, a second register 86, a 2-field difference determination comparator 189, an EOR circuit 190, and a counter 92. As explained in the AAPA, if the outputs of the first register 85 and the second register 86 are respectively "0" and "1", or "1" and "0", then the 2-field difference determination comparator 189 determines that an input interlaced signal has been telecine-converted, and outputs "1" to increment the

counter 92 (see the specification at page 9, lines 7-15). On the other hand, if the outputs of the first register 85 and the second register 86 are respectively “0” and “0”, or “1” and “1”, then the EOR circuit 190 resets the counter 92.

Thus, as is clear from the above-noted description, Applicants note that the counter 92 of the AAPA is either incremented or reset. In this regard, it is noted that the specification at page 9, line 23 specifically indicates that “[a]s described above, the counter 92 is either incremented or reset.”

Based on the foregoing, Applicants note that while the AAPA discloses a counter which is either incremented or reset, that the AAPA does not disclose or suggest a counter for incrementing a count value by one count if the N sequential fields are determined to have been either 2-2 or 2-3 pulldown-converted, for resetting the count value if the N sequential fields are determined to have been neither 2-2 nor 2-3 pulldown-converted, and for maintaining the count value if otherwise.

In other words, while the counter of the AAPA is either incremented or reset, Applicants note that the AAPA does not disclose or suggest “maintaining the count value if otherwise” as recited in claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the AAPA does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted feature recited in claim 1 of a counter means for incrementing a count value by one count if the N sequential fields are determined to have been either 2-2 or 2-3 pulldown-converted, for resetting the count value if the N sequential fields are determined to have been neither 2-2 nor 2-3 pulldown-converted, and for maintaining the count value if otherwise.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over the AAPA, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 6-10 depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 11-14 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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